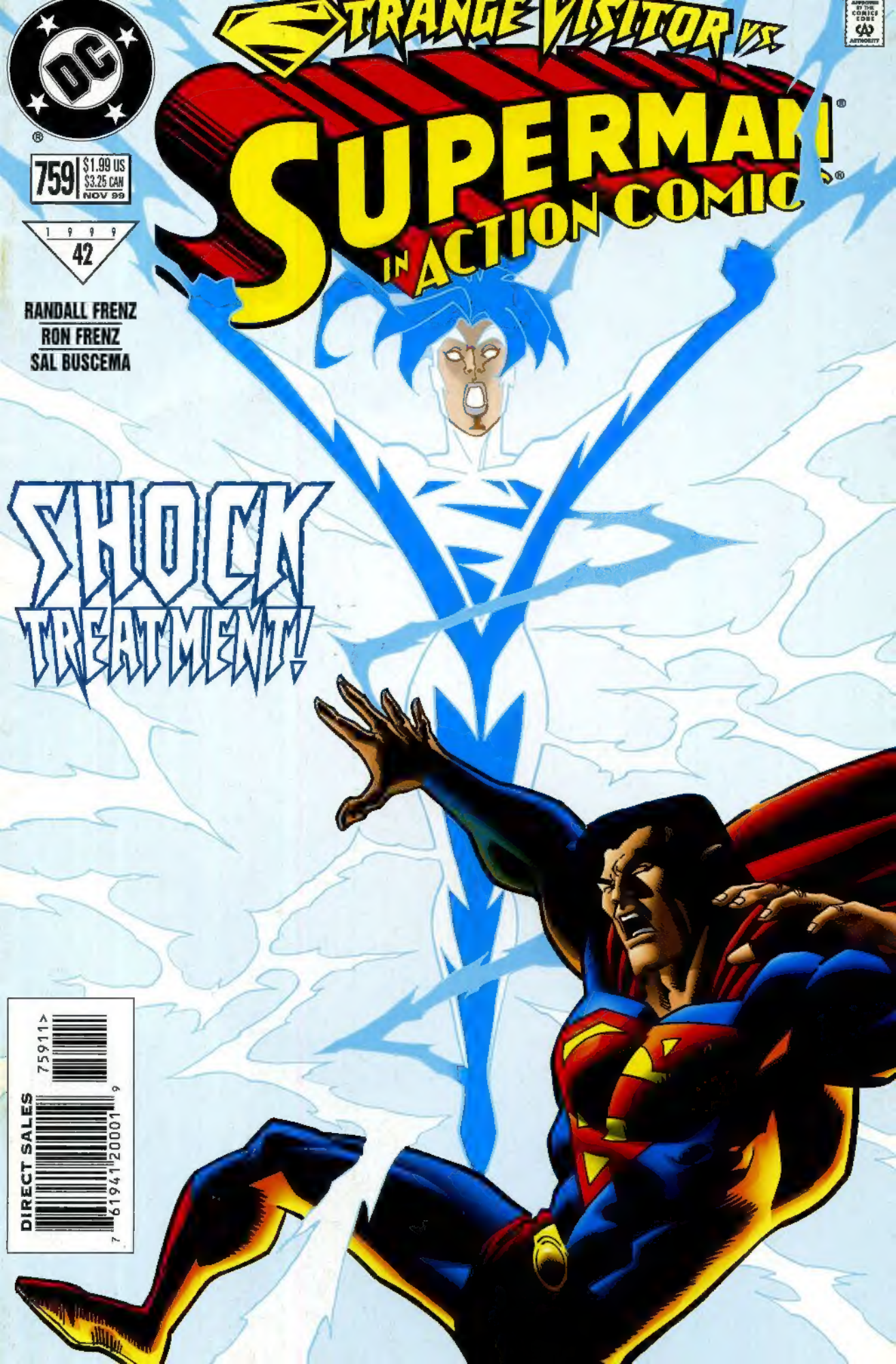
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STRANGE VISITOR VS.
SUPERMAN
IN ACTION COMICS
RANDALL FRENZ
RON FRENZ
SAL BUSCEMA
SHOCK TREATMENT!
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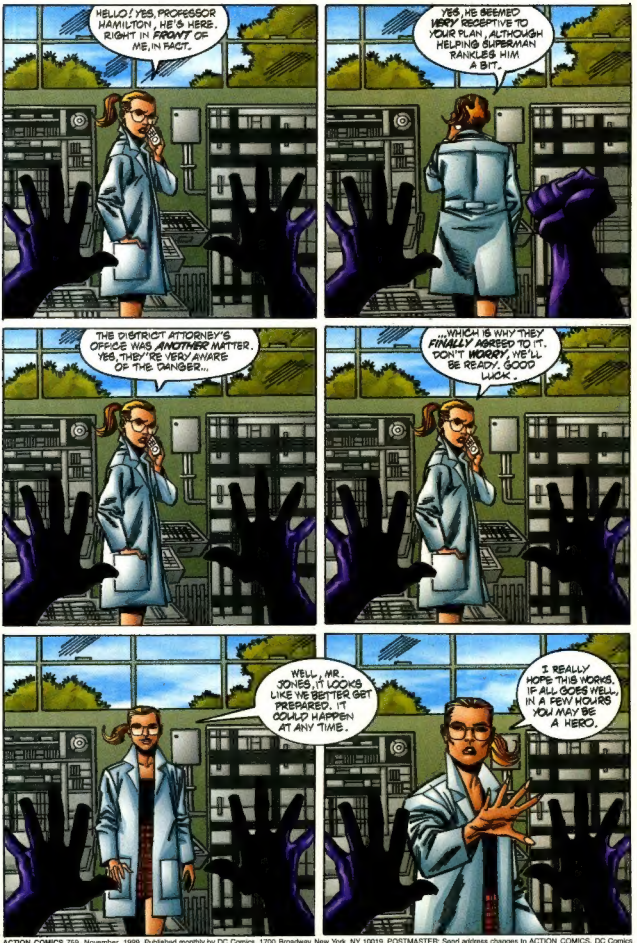
HELLO? YES, PROFESSOR HAMILTON, HE'S HERE. RIGHT IN *FRONT* OF ME, IN FACT.
YES, HE SEEMED *VERY* RECEPTIVE TO YOUR PLAN. ALTHOUGH HELPING SUPERMAN RANKLES HIM A BIT.
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WAS *ANOTHER* MATTER. YES, THEY'RE VERY AWARE OF THE DANGER...
...WHICH IS WHY THEY *FINALLY* AGREED TO IT. DON'T *WORRY*, WE'LL BE READY. GOOD LUCK.
WELL, MR. JONES, IT LOOKS LIKE WE BETTER GET PREPARED. IT *COULD* HAPPEN AT ANY TIME.
I REALLY HOPE THIS WORKS. IF ALL GOES WELL, IN A FEW HOURS YOU MAY BE A HERO.

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WHO IS STRANGE VISITOR?
CHAPTER THREE...
WHERE?
RANN AND RON FRENZ
WRITER-STORYTELLERS-ARTIST
SAL BUSCEMA
FINISHER
STEVE DUTRO
LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE
COLORIST
DIGITAL CHAMELEON
SEPARATOR
MAUREEN McTIGUE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JOEY CAVALIERI
EDITOR
SUPERMAN
created by
JERRY SIEGEL
and JOE SHUSTER
SH-SHARON! IT'S ME, BILLY! DON'T YOU KNOW ME?
NO, I DON'T. MY MEMORIES ONLY GO BACK ABOUT TWO WEEKS. I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM, WHERE I CAME FROM, OR WHO YOU ARE.
GOOD LUCK, HAM.
THANK YOU, KITTY. WE'LL PROBABLY NEED IT!

DR. FAULKNER IS PREPARING THINGS AT S.T.A.R. LABS, SUPERMAN. DO YOU THINK LETTING BILLY WILSON CONFRONT STRANGE VISITOR IS WISE? HER EMOTIONS ARE LINKED TO HER POWER SURGES.
I KNOW, PROFESSOR, BUT SHE HAS A RIGHT TO THE TRUTH. I'LL LISTEN IN AND SEE HOW THIS PLAYS OUT.
I THINK I KNOW SHARON. SHE AND I LIVED IN SMALLVILLE AS KIDS. EVEN BILLY LOOKS FAMILIAR, BUT, I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING WITHOUT RISKING MY SECRET IDENTITY.
C'MON SWEETIE, YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER ME! THIS IS BILLY! THE GUY YOU'RE GONNA MARRY!
"YOU'RE SHARON VANCE! WE GREW UP TOGETHER IN SMALLVILLE AS BEST FRIENDS.
SMALLVIL
"IN HIGH SCHOOL, OUR FRIENDSHIP BLOSSOMED AND WE STARTED GOING STEADY.
"I WENT TO VO-TECH AND BECAME THE BEST DOGGONE MECHANIC IN SMALLVILLE!
"AND YOU TURNED YOUR LOVE FOR BOOKS INTO A CAREER AS THE HEAD LIBRARIAN AT THE SMALLVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY. EVERYTHING SEEMED PERFECT.
"THAT IS, UNTIL YOUR PARENTS DIED IN AN ACCIDENT. SINCE THEN, YOU'VE SEEMED...DISTANT. OUR MARRIAGE PLANS WENT ON HOLD. THEN, TWO WEEKS AGO YOU JUST...DISAPPEARED.
"I WAS SURE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAD HAPPENED TO YOU! BUT I SAW A NEWS BULLETIN ABOUT THE 'STRANGE VISITOR' IN METROPOLIS. WHEN THEY SHOWED HER PICTURE, I KNEW IT WAS YOU!"

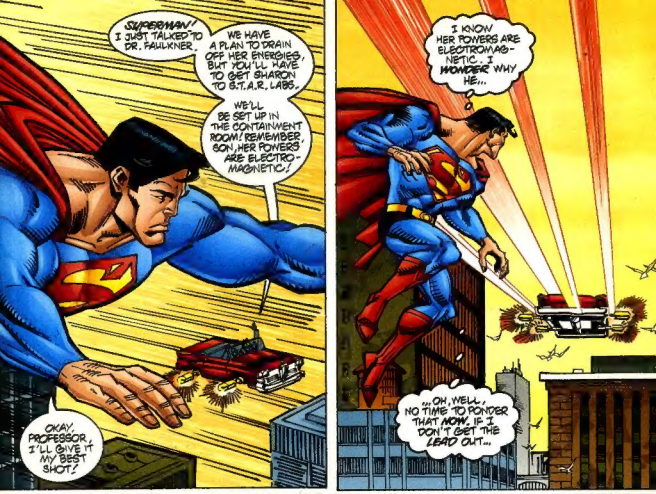
GIVE HER SOME SPACE, BILL. YOU'VE JUST THROWN A LOT AT HER. SHE NEEDS TIME TO ABSORB IT ALL.
SO THIS IS THE SHARON VANCE I KNEW! BUT HOW DID SHE GET HERE WITH THOSE INCREDIBLE POWERS?
SHARON?!
QUIT CALLING ME THAT! I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING YOU'VE TOLD ME! THAT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE! GET AWAY!
SHAR-EK-STRANGE VISITOR, WAIT! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH!
I GREW UP HERE, A STRANGE VISITOR FROM ANOTHER PLANET. I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY PAST UNTIL I WAS AN ADULT. I KNOW HOW LONELY IT FEELS. LET ME HELP.
N-NO. NO ONE CAN HELP. NO ONE CAN UNDERSTAND.
YOU, AT LEAST, HAD MEMORIES. YOU WERE RAISED HERE, AS AN EARTH CHILD. I HAVE NO MEMORIES, NO HISTORY. NOTHING!
DO YOU HEAR ME? NOTHING!!!

THAT'S ENOUGH, SHARON! YOU'RE COMING BACK TO SMALLVILLE WITH ME! ONCE YOU GET BACK TO FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS, YOU'LL REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!
WILSON, DON'T! IF YOU PUSH TOO HARD, SHE'LL...
STOP CALLING ME SHARON!

...EXPLODE! NOW WE'VE DONE IT! PROVOKING HER WILL SEND HER OUT OF CONTROL!
I'M LEAVING! BUT I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH YOU. YOU'RE CONFUSING ME! I CAN'T THINK!

SUPERMAN! STOP HER!
THIS ENERGY SURGE IS THE MOST POWERFUL YET! THE READINGS ARE OFF THE SCALE! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO CONTAIN HER POWER!
I'LL GET HER, PROFESSOR, THOUGH I DON'T MIND SAYING I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.

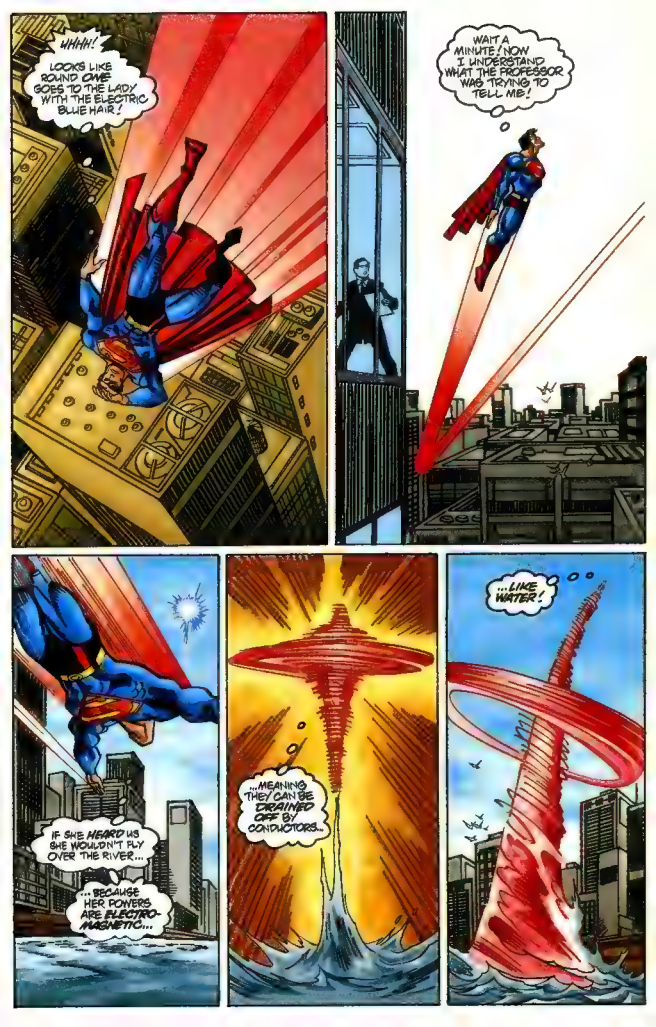
LET'S MOVE IT, SON! IF SHE REACHES CRITICAL MASS BEFORE WE CAN CARRY OUT OUR PLAN, WE'LL ALL BE VAPORIZED!
I-I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, PROFESSOR!
KITTY, THIS IS HAMILTON! IT'S HAPPENED! SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL. SUPERMAN'S GONE AFTER HER...
"... ARE YOU READY?!"
READY AS WE'LL EVER BE, PROFESSOR. HAVE SUPERMAN BRING HER TO THE CONTAINMENT ROOM!
I'LL TELL HIM, BUT HE'S GOING TO HAVE HIS HANDS FULL JUST CATCHING HER!
I SURE HOPE SUPERMAN CAN CATCH HER. I'D DIE IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HER.
SON, IF SUPERMAN CAN'T BRING HER BACK, DYING WILL BE A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY FOR ALL OF US.


SUPERMAN! I JUST TALKED TO DR. FAULKNER.
WE HAVE A PLAN TO DRAIN OFF HER ENERGIES, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GET SHARON TO S.T.A.R. LABS.
WE'LL BE SET UP IN THE CONTAINMENT ROOM! REMEMBER, SON, HER POWERS ARE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC!
OKAY, PROFESSOR. I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!
I KNOW HER POWERS ARE ELECTROMAG-NETIC. I WONDER WHY HE...
...OH, WELL, NO TIME TO PONDER THAT NOW. IF I DON'T GET THE LEAD OUT...

...I'LL NEVER CATCH HER BEFORE SHE REACHES CRITICAL MASS!

THERE SHE IS... SHE'S MOVING AT MANY TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND...
...BUT I CAN STILL CLOSE THE DISTANCE!
C'MON... STRETCH OUT...
I'VE GOT TO POUR IT ON! JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE...
GOT HER!
NO! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO...

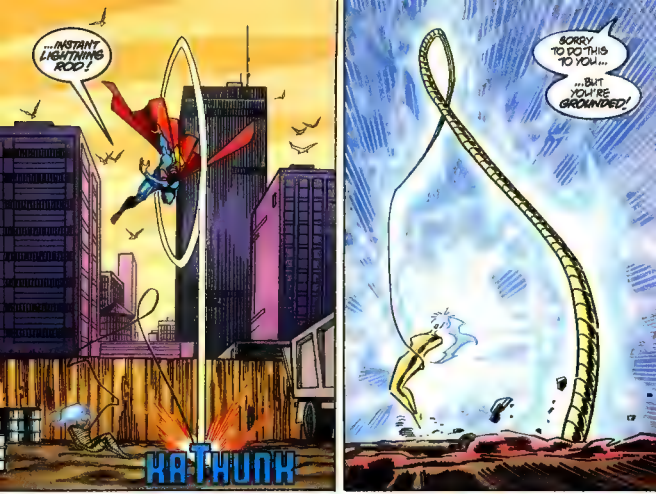
LEAVE ME ALONE!
AARGH!

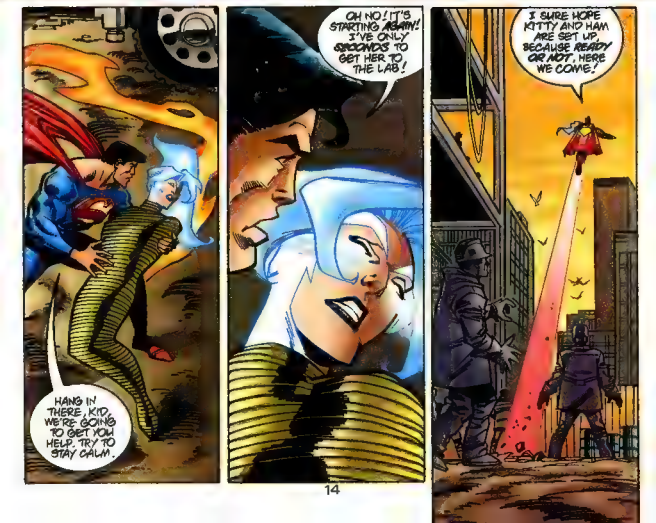

WHHH!
LOOKS LIKE ROUND ONE GOES TO THE LADY WITH THE ELECTRIC BLUE HAIR!
WAIT A MINUTE! NOW I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PROFESSOR WAS TRYING TO TELL ME!
IF SHE HEARD US SHE WOULDN'T FLY OVER THE RIVER...
...BECAUSE HER POWERS ARE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC...
...MEANING THEY CAN BE DRAINED OFF BY CONDUCTORS...
...LIKE WATER!

SIZZZZ
IT'S WORKING! THANK YOU, PROFESSOR HAMILTON! THE WATER'S SHORTING HER OUT AND DRAINING OFF THE ENERGY.
NOW, IF SHE'LL JUST STAY DRAINED UNTIL I CAN GET HER TO THE LAB.
UH-OH...
SKRAAK!

THE DEVASTATING BLOW SENDS THE EMBATTLED MAN OF STEEL CAREENING INTO A DISABLED SATELLITE...
...KNOCKING IT FROM ITS ASSIGNED ORBIT.
WHOOF! I THINK I'M DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO LOSING ROUND TWO!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THE GLOVES OFF...
"...AND GET SERIOUS!"
WHAM!

LIKE A BLUE-TAILED COMET, STRANGE VISITOR PLUMMETS INTO A CONSTRUCTION SITE...
KABLAM!
JEEZ! DO SKY'S FALLIN'!
PERFECT SHOT! THIS SPOOL OF CABLE IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WRAP HER UP...
...TIE THE END OF THE CABLE TO THIS GIRDER...
...AND... END UP WITH...


...INSTANT LIGHTNING ROD!
KRTHUNK
SORRY TO DO THIS TO YOU...
...BUT YOU'RE GROUNDED!

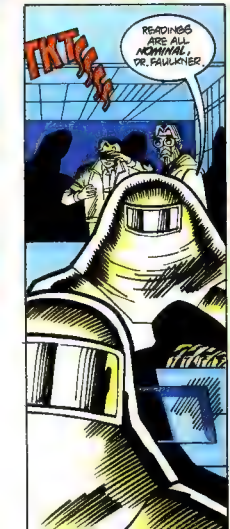

HANG IN THERE, KID. WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU HELP. TRY TO STAY CALM.
OH NO! IT'S STARTING AGAIN! I'VE ONLY SECONDS TO GET HER TO THE LAB!
I SURE HOPE KITTY AND HAM ARE SET UP BECAUSE READY OR NOT, HERE WE COME!

SUPERMAN, WE'RE ALL SET UP IN THE EAST WING CONTAINMENT UNIT!
I REALLY HOPE THIS WORKS. STRANGE VISITOR COULD FRY HALF THE STATE IF SHE COMPLETELY LOST CONTROL, AND I'M FRESH OUT OF IDEAS!
THIS WAY, SUPERMAN! THE HALLS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED FOR SAFETY'S SAKE.
HOW IS SHE, SUPERMAN?
SHE'S FINE, BILLY! DR. FAULKNER KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING... DON'T WORRY!
WHERE DO YOU WANT HER, DOCTOR?
OVER HERE, SUPERMAN. GREAT JOB! YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART, NOW IT'S UP TO US!

S.T.A.R. IS USED TO DEALING WITH MENACES AND MONSTERS. I HOPE FOR HER SAKE THAT SHARON IS NO... MONSTER!
THE SUBJECT IS SECURE AND THE INTERFACE IS COMPLETE, DOCTOR.
WHOA, PAL! SHE'S NOT A "SUBJECT", THAT'S.. SORRY, SHE...SHE'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE USED TO DEALING WITH.
UNDERSTOOD, SUPERMAN. AND I'M AFRAID YOUR MISGIVINGS AREN'T GOING TO LESSEN ANY.
NONE OF OUR SYSTEMS COULD HANDLE THIS KIND OF POWER SURGE. WE'D BE OUT OF THE GAME IF NOT FOR HIS, OR SHOULD I SAY, THEIR HELP.
YES, KITTY, I'M AWARE OF THE PARASITE'S DUAL PERSONALITIES. HELLO, RUDY. HOW'S DR. FREEMAN? I MUST SAY--
--I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT ALL THIS.
AWW, SUPES, DON'T BE LIKE THAT! IT'S JUST LIKE OLD TIMES! 'MEMBER WHEN I SAVED YOUR HASH BY DRAININ' YA?
DON'T ACT SO HAPPY ABOUT THIS, RUDY! I FIND THE ENTIRE ENDEAVOR DISTASTEFUL!
OH, THE DOC SEZ "HI"!
I REMEMBER.
RUDY!

SKEEAK!
STAND BACK, SUPERMAN! WE'VE GOT TO ACT NOW!
IT'S ALL UP TO THE PARASITE!
ONLY THE PARASITE'S POWER CAN SIPHON OFF STRANGE VISITOR'S EXCESS.
HOWEVER, HE DOESN'T GET TO KEEP IT. WE'VE STUDIED RUDY ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW TO DRAIN OFF HIS ENERGIES... HE'LL MERELY ACT AS A CONDUIT.
SKEEAK

SKZZAK!
IF THIS DOESN'T DO THE TRICK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO! THE POOR GIRL'S SUBATOMIC STRUCTURE CAN'T HANDLE MUCH MORE OF THIS!
HANG IN THERE, HONEY, PLEASE! I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU AGAIN! I COULDN'T BEAR THAT!
PEOPLE LIKE YOU DESERVE TO MAKE IT, SHARON. YOU HAVE SUCH A GOOD HEART. IF THERE'S ANY JUSTICE IN THE UNIVERSE, THIS WILL WORK!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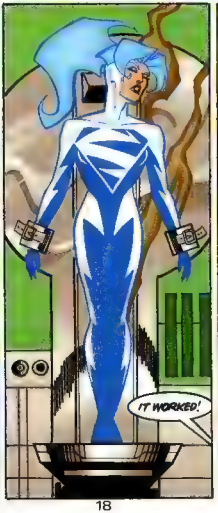
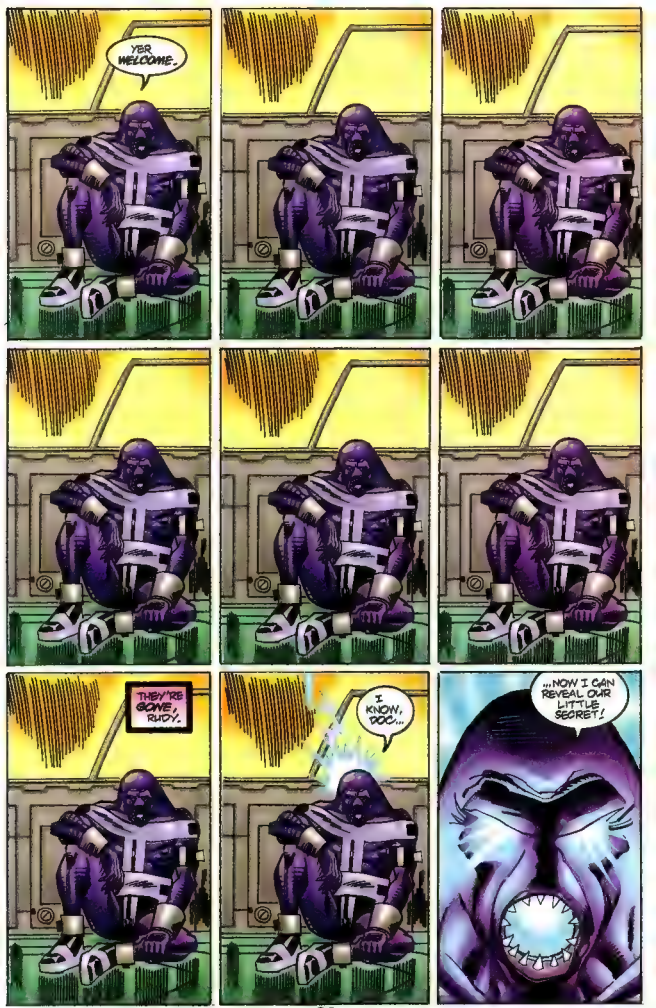
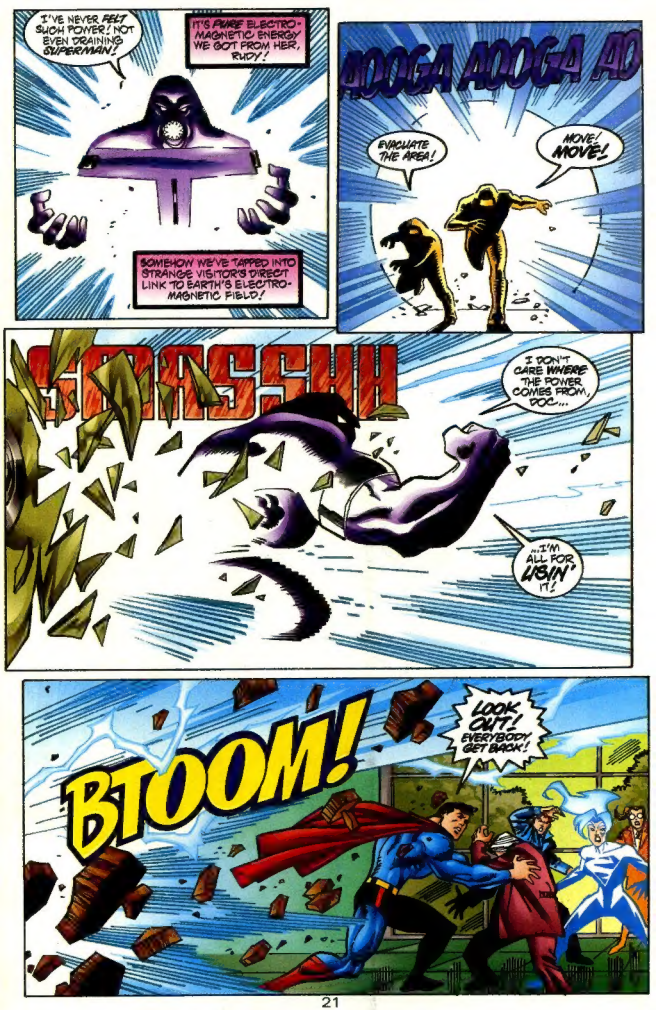
READINGS ARE ALL NOMINAL, DR. FAULKNER.


IT WORKED!

YEAH, YEAH, IT WORKED. SOMEBODY WANT TA GET ME OUTTA THIS CONTRAPTION?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, RUDY? YOU'RE A HERO!
LAY OFF, DOC. WILLYA? JUST... LAY OFF.

TAKE YOUR TIME. IT'S ALL OVER.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
EMBARRASSED. THE THINGS I DID...
ARE FORGOTTEN.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO FORGET WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE... ABOUT WHO I AM. NOW. BEING WHAT'S IMPORTANT!
KNOWING THAT, I CAN TAKE HOLD OF MY PAST AND FACE THE FUTURE...
SHARON! THANK HEAVEN! I WAS SO WORRIED, SWEETIE!
COME ON, BILLY. LET'S TALK ABOUT MY PAST. MAYBE IT'S TIME I DID YISIT SMALLVILLE.


YER WELCOME.
THEY'RE GONE, RUDY.
I KNOW, DOC...
...NOW I CAN REVEAL OUR LITTLE SECRET!


I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH POWER! NOT EVEN DRAINING SUPERMAN'S!
IT'S PURE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ENERGY WE GOT FROM HER, RUDY!
SOMEHOW WE'VE TAPPED INTO STRANGE VISITOR'S DIRECT LINK TO EARTH'S ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD!
AOOGA AOOGA AO
EVACUATE THE AREA!
MOVE! MOVE!
I DON'T CARE WHERE THE POWER COMES FROM, DOC...
...I'M ALL FOR USIN' IT!
BTOOM!
LOOK OUT! EVERYBODY GET BACK!

HEY THERE, SUPES! SAY HALLO TO THE ALL-NEW, ALL-POWERFUL PARASITE!
HE'S GLOWING WITH THE SAME POWER AS STRANGE VISITOR! IF HE CAN STILL DRAIN ME OF MY POWERS...
...THE PARASITE MAY WELL BE UNBEATABLE!
concluded next week in Man of Steel #94!

RE: ACTION

Dear DC:

I just picked up ACTION COMICS #753 and read it the minute I got home, like I always do. First thing I have to say is that your artwork and writing are superb. I enjoy the art the most. Second, the story is getting a lot better. I enjoy the fact that Supes isn't fighting someone different in every comic. Third, although Superman's taking the Earth into his own hands is wrong, I understand *why* he's doing it. Superman is a great hero, and I can't see a comics industry without him. My questions:

1) When this story plays out, are you going to keep the robots?

2) Is this maybe all a dream that Superman is having?

3) What's going to happen to the *Daily Planet*? Please bring it back. Clark is going to need a job when this story is over, especially since Lois hates working for Luthor and they need money to live.

Thanks a lot. I love DC and Superman.

ROBERT SWERDLOW
SELDEN, NY

Thanks, Robert, for your feedback on the issue, and for your loyalty to comics' greatest hero. Please accept this month's Baldy award as a token of our esteem!

In answer to your questions: 1) The robots met their end not long after Superman ended his reign as King of the World; 2) Dominus was the influence behind Superman's behavior, as you've no doubt learned by now; and 3) The Daily Planet *will become a newsworthy topic of discussion in SUPERMAN #151. Just keep in mind that Clark doesn't necessarily need money to live—he is Superman!*

Dear Re:Action (re ACTION #753):

Go, Superman! I knew he could hold his own against the JLA if he had to. I know he's in the wrong here, but any issue that features even one other Leaguer is a winner with me—though I must say, I expected more from Batman. It's not like him to attack Superman with synthetic Kryptonite he isn't sure will work. Didn't he have the real stuff? Also, I like the way you've incorporated the story into other titles, like having one of Superman's robots show up in GREEN LANTERN #111.

Anyhow, I know who's behind Superman's visions. It's another case of Dominus distorting Supes's reality. I came to this conclusion more from your hints in the letters pages than from the storyline. I guess it pays to read the Re:Actions every once in a while.

SMAGENT86@AOL.COM

Hmm...guess we'll have to be more careful about giving clues away in the lettercolumns. Then again, it's good to know you fans are reading! Just expect more subtle clues next time!

—Mike McAvennie
Mr. Subtle

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

IN ONE WEEK: MAN OF STEEL #94 means War for our "Strange Visitor," and it's declared by Ron and Randall Frenz and Sal Buscema!

IN TWO WEEKS: Brainiac's ugly, oversized head rears in the lavish, extra- sized SUPERMAN #150 by Dan Jurgens, Steve Epting and Joe Rubinstein!

IN THREE WEEKS: J.M. DeMatteis, Ryan Sook and Jeff Gan render an extra-sized DAY OF JUDGMENT for Superman in MAN OF TOMORROW #15!

IN FOUR WEEKS: A Super-new era takes off "Faster Than a Speeding Bullet" when new writer Jeph Loeb, Mike McKone and Marlo Alquiza present SUPERMAN #151!

IN FIVE WEEKS: "Able to Leap Tall Buildings" in ADVENTURES #573 are Stuart Immonen, Mark Millar, Steve Epting, Denis Rodier and, oh yeah, Superman!

IN SIX WEEKS: Mark Schultz, Doug Mahnke and Tom Nguyen take a new look at our "Strange Visitor from Another Planet" in MAN OF STEEL #95!

IN SEVEN WEEKS: "The Never-Ending Battle" begins anew in ACTION #760, with the new team of Joe Kelly, German Garcia and Joe Rubinstein!

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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

Shock follows shock for Superman and the Strange Visitor on this month's cover, thanks to Ron Frenz, Sal Buscema and Patrick Martin!

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HE'S JUST NOT ABLE TO HELP HIM-SELF
(BELIEVE ME, HE'S TRIED!)
BEAST
MMM, SCANNING CAN BE SO SATIS-FACTORY...
CHARMING